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NOTES.

A PATHETIC interest attaches always to the last work of a popular author, and Daudet's posthumous "Soutien de famille," or, as we may translate the title, "The Breadwinner," was sure of a kindly reception. But it has no need to claim any fortuitous indulgence. It bears no mark of incompleteness, of lack of revision, or even of failing strength. Indeed, while it certainly is not, as some critics have made haste to proclaim, the best of Daudet's novels, it is certainly better than anything he gave us since the "Evangelist." It is in part, not the best part, the story of a modern Hamlet, of a man lamed in mind by responsibilities greater than he can bear, and by the profound conviction of his superiority that possesses every member of his family, with the exception of a singularly clear-headed sister. In part, and the best part, the book is a picture of French political life, in which the survivors of the old *doctrinaire* republicans of 1848 are set off admirably against the republicans "for revenue only" of the new *régime*. Many of these characters are easily recognizable portraits, among them that of the President of the republic, a Pecksniff drawn so cleverly that we feel it must be true to nature. Freycinet appears also, and in the background Lord Dufferin and Stanley, whose Anglo-Saxondom is a foil to the festering frivolity of the society in which they come and go. The social and political corruption of the governing classes in France must be desperate indeed if this book describes them justly. Those who prefer to read of persons who respect the seventh or the eighth commandment will hardly find the book to their taste, but it is sure to take a high place in literature as a study of "contemporary manners," ill as those manners may be.

The early years of factory life in Lowell were unique in the industrial history of Massachusetts and probably of the world. Nowhere and at no time hitherto had women of the

middle class, women bred to independence and with aspirations to culture, been afforded on such a scale a means of economic association and self-support. Socially the experiment was an auspicious success. Economically it resisted the competition of cheap imported goods, but sunk before the competition of cheap imported labor, though here too it seems that intelligent coöperation would have better safeguarded the ultimate interests even of capital. The story of this venture and of the beginning of textile industry in the United States was well worth the telling, and it has been told with admirable simplicity by one of the factory girls themselves in "Loom and Spindle, or Life Among the Early Mill Girls," by Harriet H. Robinson (New York, Crowell), a woman well known among the advance guard of political reformers in the old Bay State. But while her narrative involves economic considerations, it has very considerable interest of a purely literary sort. These women who worked leisurely for twelve hours a day had come, many of them, from cultured homes, to secure means for themselves or for others to continue their training, and found time between their tasks to read and ponder, and when work was over they gathered in "Improvement Circles," whence grew in time the first woman's magazine in the world, "The Lowell Offering," once famous not in America alone but in England and France as well, while in a sense these Lowell circles were parents also of the modern woman's clubs. That these factory girls could write, and write vigorously, we have the best of contemporary testimony, excellently supplemented here by the letter of Clementine Averill to Senator Clemens, of Louisiana, published in the *New York Tribune* of 1850, in answer to a rash assertion that Southern slaves were better off than Northern operatives, which was never less true than then and there. The closing chapter of the book contrasts present conditions with the past, and attributes their inferiority in large part to what a South Carolina Senator of 1850 described as "the accursed policy of the tariff," words quite as true now as they were when they were first spoken.

In "Seven Months a Prisoner," the last volume that has reached us of Scribner's dainty Ivory Series, Judge J. V. Hadley, of Indiana, tells with most graphic directness of his capture on the first day of the battle of the Wilderness and of various adventures and attempts to escape during the slow transportation of the prisoners to the officers' prison at Macon, with some curious bits of the psychology of prison life and vivid descriptions of admirable brevity. Presently the scene shifts to Savannah and Charleston, and thence to Columbia and to a country prison pen, Camp Sorghum, whence he and three others made their escape on November 4, 1864.

This brings us to page 96, about two-fifths through the book. The rest, and on the whole the more cheerful part to those who would gladly veil the sordid side of our fraternal strife, is concerned with a thrilling narrative of their long journey in a hostile country, of their discovery of unexpected friends in need, at such opportune instants that truth seems indeed stranger than fiction, until at last they made their way across South Carolina, into the mountains of North Carolina, and found there rest, refreshment, and guides among the bandit outlaws of the mountains, who brought them fifty miles and then abandoned them on their way to Knoxville, where they arrived at last in time to get either home or among friends for Christmas day.

Of course there is much in this story that will be read with more pleasure north than south of the old line, and yet as a work of simple unconscious art and as a story of gallant manhood it ought to be a refreshment to every critical reader and a joy to every Anglo-Saxon heart. Santiago shows that the old blood is tingling still in the new generation.

Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson has written a thoughtful book on woman's part in social evolution, and calls it "Women and Economics." (Boston: Small, Maynard & Co., 1898.) Every one who knows Mrs. Stetson's ancestry will expect to find in her work a cleverly dosed mingling of eccentricity and talent. This all her work shows, yet we

are inclined to think she has never produced anything so suggestive and stimulating as this book.

Mrs. Stetson prejudices her case by opening her economic essay with a proem in verse. The verses are well enough, but they are not in their place, and the pages would have been better occupied with an analytic table of contents or with an index. Even when fairly launched on the current of her vigorous prose Mrs. Stetson is apt to prejudice her case by the studied crudeness of her vigorous irony. She begins by stating and illustrating the economic dependence of the female part of the *genus homo*. "We are the only animal species," she says, "in which the female depends on the male for food." This dependence produces an oversexualizing of both male and female, as we may find it also, for instance, in the bovine race. Such a "modification to maternity," Mrs. Stetson thinks, may well have been necessary at a certain period of social development, but has now ceased to be so, for it tends to develop the vices of the slave in woman and of the master in man, and so in the course of successive generations may well produce an "innate perversion of character resultant from the miscegenation of two so diverse souls." If a way could be found to restore woman to economic independence without marring the domestic life, Mrs. Stetson feels that it would have "a clarifying and harmonizing effect on the race." "Not the sex relation but the economic relation of the sexes has so tangled the skein of human life." "We have kept half of humanity tied to the starting post while the other half ran." Of the future Mrs. Stetson is hopeful, though she makes no Utopian forecasts. To us the best ground of encouragement is the fact that women to-day are thinking such thoughts and writing such books as this. Surely when this is possible present conditions cannot be unfavorable to the intellectual independence of woman, and that is sure to bring economic independence in the long run.

The late Victor Duruy's manuals of history are too well known to require comment. His "History of France,"

edited by Professor Jameson, has long been a most satisfactory text-book. Its publishers, T. Y. Crowell & Co., have just issued as a companion volume the "General History of the World," which has been edited and brought up to the conclusion of the Spanish-American war, by Professor Edwin A. Grosvenor, of Amherst College. It is naturally a thick volume, but it might be profitably used by colleges, and will be very useful to readers in need of such a manual. The present century receives fuller treatment than any of its predecessors, which seems to us to be laying the stress in the right place.

Dean Farrar's latest publication, "Great Books" (T. Y. Crowell & Co.), consists of an essay on the value of good literature, followed by papers on Bunyan, Shakspeare, Dante, Milton, and the "Meditation of Christ." While none of the essays are profound, all will be useful reading to the wide class of people to whom Dean Farrar appeals. The book will be especially valuable to young people who are beginning their literary education, and to such we warmly commend it. The longest paper is that on Dante; we ourselves prefer that on Milton, for whose consummate genius Dean Farrar has an appreciation which we could wish to find in more Anglican clergymen.

"From Chaucer to Arnold—Types of Literary Art in Prose and Verse" (The Macmillan Co.) is the title of a thick volume of selections which that prolific editor, Mr. A. J. George, has put together to serve as an introduction to the study of English literature. There is quite a full apparatus of preface, notes, glossary, and list of authorities. Mr. George's scholarship is good, but not impeccable, as may be seen from the fact that he still quotes the famous epitaph on the Countess of Pembroke as Ben Jonson's, without a note of warning. His principles of selection seem to be bizarre when he gives no quotation from "Paradise Lost," nor are they thoroughly inclusive, since he does

not find room for Prior and Campbell to represent society verse and martial poetry respectively. But it cannot be denied that he has made a book that will be extremely useful both to schools and to general readers, even if its lists of authorities might bear revising.

“The Two Magics” is the title of Mr. Henry James’s latest volume. (Macmillan & Co.) It contains two characteristic stories that will probably interest the author’s admirers. The first only deals with the supernatural, technically speaking; the second deals with the remarkable effects produced by a charming woman’s influence, which is sufficiently magical to justify the title given to the book, although its two component stories have nothing to do with one another. It is the proper thing to praise Mr. James’s English, but to our mind its subtleties are overdone, and might be profitably exchanged for a little straightforwardness. His character analysis, however, deserves not a little praise, and his manner of dealing with the supernatural is quite unique.

“Buccaneers and Pirates of Our Coast,” by Frank R. Stockton (The Macmillan Co.), is a book sufficiently described by its title. It ought to be immensely interesting as well as instructive to boys, and older people may get from it not a little pleasure and profit. The true story of the famous Capt. Kidd forms the *finale*, and our old friends Blackbeard and Stede Bonnet are duly remembered. The illustrations are numerous and good. Much the same merits belong to another book just issued by the same publishers, “De Soto and His Men in the Land of Florida,” by Miss Grace King, of New Orleans, whose book dealing with that famous city has received such favorable notice. Miss King has told the romantic story in a romantic way, but she has evidently been conscientious in her use of her authorities.

Professor Jackson, of New York University, is editing a series of biographies of the heroes of the Reformation, of which

the first is rightly that of "Martin Luther," by Professor H. E. Jacobs (New York: Putnam's, 1898), whose varied labors in the history of the Reformation in Germany and of the Lutheran Church have attracted general notice among those who care to trace the inner history of this movement of a national mind. There is probably none in America better qualified for the task, and the author's constant effort at impartiality makes his book interesting even for those who differ very widely from his judgments of events, policies, and persons. One feels always that Dr. Jacobs knows the evidence, and that any difference that may exist between him and his critic rests on the relative weight that they accord to authorities or on the inevitable subjective differences due to the uneliminable personal equation. The early part of the biography, up to the period of the Peasants' War, seems to us more satisfactory than the latter. This was almost inevitable if, according to the title of the series, Luther was to be maintained till his death as the bright cynosure of the Reformation. It does not seem to us that Dr. Jacobs fitly characterizes or adequately explains the inconsistencies of Luther's emotional theology, still less his truckling to the princes in later years, wherever their gain did not mean, as at Marburg, a loss of prestige for himself. The book as a whole, however, is a credit both to its author and to its publishers.

A timely volume for readers interested in the problem of imperialism will be found in Mr. Benjamin Kidd's "Control of the Tropics." (New York: The Macmillan Co.) Only a little over half the book is new, however, for the lengthy appendix is taken from chapter ten of the author's now notorious "Social Evolution." It is needless to say that Mr. Kidd urges upon English-speaking peoples the control of the tropics as a moral duty.

Mr. Goldwin Smith has taken advantage of a fresh re-issue of his "Guesses at the Riddle of Existence," to add a new essay in which he replies to his critics, and once

more goes over the grounds on which he rests his criticism of the Old and New Testaments and the Church. His arguments will naturally make a different appeal to different classes of readers, but there will be no difference of opinion as to the remarkable excellence of the English he uses.

A book which will be very useful not only to teachers, but to all persons who are interested in the theory of education, is Catherine T. Dodd's "Introduction to the Herbartian Principles of Teaching." (The Macmillan Co.) The book is of modest compass, well put together, clear and interesting. We hope that it will have a wide sale and do good.

Mr. Henry Jones Ford has published, through the Macmillan Company, an interesting sketch of our constitutional development, under the title "The Rise and Growth of American Politics." His conclusions are neither too optimistic—a common fault—nor too pessimistic; and his book, which is of moderate compass, ought to do good.

In his "New England Poets" (Macmillan) Mr. William Cranston Lawton has performed the useful service of writing in a popular yet reverently enthusiastic manner about the six great imaginative writers of New England who did so much to mold the life and thought of our fathers. There can be little question that the book will do good to latter-day readers, and we cordially commend it.

Professor Edward Channing's excellent "Student's History of the United States" (Macmillan) has just been enlarged by a quite judicious account of the war recently ended. We suppose that patriotism demands that such recent and debatable topics should be put before our school children, but we should prefer to teach them a different sort of gospel.

Volume vii. of the valuable "Harvard Historical Studies" (Longmans, Green & Co.) is a monograph that will be of very great interest to all students of our colonial period. It is entitled "The Provisional Governor in the English Colonies of North America," and is by Professor E. B. Greene, of the University of Illinois.

We shall trust to give a more extended notice later of the "University Addresses" of the late Principal Caird, which the Macmillan Company have just sent us. We cannot, however, postpone comment on two beautifully illustrated books just published by the same house, for they are too suggestive as gift books for the holiday season. They are an edition of Mrs. Gaskell's ever-delightful "Cranford" with a preface by Mrs. Ritchie, and characteristically delightful illustrations by Mr. Hugh Thomson, and a most attractively gotten up volume entitled "Home Life in Colonial Days," by Alice Morse Earle. Both books are admirable specimens of the art of illustrators and printers.

The most pathetic element in the work of every scholar is, of course, connected with the fact that his work, no matter how good, suffers merely from the lapse of time and the consequent addition to the stock of the world's knowledge about his specialty. It is not often that a writer lives long enough to avail himself of the advances made by a generation and thus to secure a little longer life for his work. This is what Mr. Herbert Spencer has done, however, in the case of his "Principles of Biology," the first volume of a new and revised edition of which now lies before us. The preface to the original first volume was dated September 29, 1864; that to the volume before us is dated August, 1898. A generation of scholars and scholarly work is thus represented; but who among the newer men represents such encyclopedic knowledge and herculean power of labor as Mr. Spencer? The Appletons continue to be his American publishers.

It must be the greatest gratification an author can receive in a lifetime to have his works gathered in a beautiful uniform edition. Such has recently been Mr. Austin Dobson's fate. The new edition of his works which Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. are publishing is a model of neatness and charm, and is sold at a very low price. We need hardly commend Mr. Dobson, but it is just as well to advise our readers to secure this dainty set of his works.

Perhaps the neatest of the numerous series of English classics published in this country is that now being issued by the Macmillan Co. The size is dainty, the paper and print good, and the price, twenty-five cents per volume, is remarkably low. Indeed, it is hard to see where the profit of such an enterprise is to come from.

We have received from the Macmillan Company five volumes of their new "German Classics" for college and school use, edited by Waterman T. Hewett, Ph.D., of Cornell University. The volumes are Goethe's "Egmont," edited by Professor Sylvester Primer, of the University of Texas; Lessing's "Nathan der Weise," edited by Professor George A. Curme, of the Northwestern University; Schiller's "Jungfrau," edited by Professor Willard Humphreys, of Princeton; Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris," edited by Professor Charles A. Eggert, of the University of Iowa; and Freytag's "Die Verlorene Handschrift" (condensed), edited by Katherine M. Hewett. The same publishers send us "Student's Readings and Questions in English Literature," a little manual based on Brooke's "Outlines," by Harriet L. Mason, of the Drexel Institute; "A Syllabus of English Grammar," by L. C. Foster, revised with additions by H. W. Foster; "An Introductory Logic," by Professor James E. Creighton, of Cornell; "Matter, Energy, Force, and Work," by Professor S. W. Holman, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.